

**Subject: Re: >WOODSIDE VICTORY<**

**Date: Tue, 5 Nov 2002 23:09:39 +0000 (GMT)**

**From: tony parker <tparker39@bushinternet.com>**

**To: ustiben.5@ntlworld.com**



BRILLIANT!!!!

> -----Original Message-----

> From: ustiben.5@ntlworld.com (ustiben.5)

> Sent: Tue Nov 05 09:03:55 GMT 2002

> **Subject: >WOODSIDE VICTORY<**

>

> **>>WOOSIDE WITHSTANDS<**

> **>>MONSTER ONSLAUGHT<**

>

> **Grattan Puxon reports**

>

> **Mid Beds Council, armed with a High**

> **Court injunction, hired hundreds of contractors**

> **and police and monster-sized machinery for its**

> **onslaught on >Woodside< on Monday (4 Nov).**

>

> **But stout defence of the barricaded entrance**

> **and resistance by Travellers that grew more**

> **determined by the hour ended in defeat for**

> **the would-be evictors.**

>

> **The first round wend to the council only**

> **because their JCB was twice the size of the**

> **mechanical digger implanted in the wall of**

> **gas-containers, trashed trailer and planks that**

> **had been built across the entrance over the**

> **weekend.**

>

> **After that, it was mostly "own-gaols" by**

> **the opposition. Despite expenditure of around**

> **£500,000 (including legal costs), they failed**

> **to shift anybody.**

>

> **Maybe the Mid Beds Council think this waste**

> **of public money is worth it. As Loraine Bayley has**

> **pointed out in a letter to them, the land is valued at**

> **£5 million for housing (if you can get the Gypsies**

> **off).**

>

> **"They threw everything at us they had,"**

> **said Cliff Codona, of the National Travellers**

> Action Group. "But at the end of the day we're  
> still here."

>

> Cliff sees this achievement as the start  
> of a powerful campaign that hopefully will bring  
> passage of the Traveller Law Reform Bill.  
> Among other places presently under  
> threat are those at Nuneaton and Epping.  
> Right now the stress of witnessing the vandalizing  
> of his would-be model caravan park is etched in  
> his face.

>

> On Wednesday (6 Nov) Cliff will be back in  
> the High Court for his application for a stay against  
> the injunction. And, as it happens, he also is opening  
> an exhibition at the V&A which includes pictures  
> of children at Woodside.

>

> Support by New Age Travellers and others  
> and some tricky negotiating, carried out by  
> Andrew Ryder, of the Gypsy Council, myself  
> (co-ordinator Roma Federation) and - at a vital  
> moment - intervention by Catholic chaplain  
> Father Joe Browne, helped bring matters to a  
> successful conclusion.

>

> However, it was Cliff Codona who, typically keeping  
> his cards close to chest, played the ace on the council's  
> knave. After clearance with the Community Law Partnership,  
> he offered to take Tommy Ward on to his currently empty  
> Plot 16.

>

> It might have been a "plot" all along, as the sun rose  
> on a drama that had many twists turns. The opening defiance  
> by Joe (Ahmet), who placed his disabled-person's car in front  
> of the 15-foot barricade then stood on the "battlements"; Becky,  
> dragged from the platform with others only to join the sit-ins in the  
> trailers and young Daren Ward, lying in the wet under his  
> father's caravan - screaming that he would not come out. And  
> he didn't.

>

> That brought the bailiffs, police and television crews  
> to the Wards' trailer door. Tommy Ward is a big man, in all  
> senses of the word, and this threat to his family was too much.  
> He chested up to a dozen of the hired thugs - and it took  
> six of them to wrestle him to the muddy ground.

>

> After that - about 11 o'clock - the police, acting  
> half-decently, agreed to a truce until noon. The time was